



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FORMER  
SUPERVISORY INSPECTOR PEDRO VEGA AND TWO OTHERS  
CONVICTED ON CONSPIRACY, WIRE FRAUD, BRIBERY,  
AND DOCUMENT FRAUD CHARGES**

Acting United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that, after a two and a half week long trial, a federal district court jury sitting on St. Thomas convicted **PEDRO VEGA**, 34, a former supervisory immigration inspector for the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, **IGNACIA VERAS DE LOS SANTOS**, 29, and **AGUSTIN VERAS DE LOS SANTOS**, 27, on fourteen (14) counts of a federal indictment for criminal offenses including Conspiracy To Commit An Offense Against the United States; Wire Fraud; Bribery; and Document Fraud in a scheme, which involved the sale of fraudulently obtained passport stamps, known as adit stamps, to illegal aliens. The adit stamps would allow illegal aliens to travel to and stay in the United States. Pedro Vega, through

his position, ensured uninterrupted passage of such illegal aliens through immigration checkpoints.

Attorney Jenkins stated that this is an “important case because of the need to root out public corruption from our island community wherever it exists, including at our federally protected borders.” He further stated that “the protection of our borders is something about which the public understandably has been extremely concerned, and we will continue to vigorously ensure that those borders are not compromised.”

Conspiracy To Commit an Offense Against the United States carries a maximum penalty of five (5) years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000; Wire Fraud carries a maximum penalty of twenty (20) years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000; Bribery carries a maximum penalty of fifteen (15) years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000; and Document Fraud carries a maximum penalty of ten (10) years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Attorney Jenkins stated that this investigation was conducted jointly by the Department of Homeland Security’s Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Office of the Inspector General, which served as the lead investigative agency. Acting U.S. Attorney Jenkins commended the agents’ hard work and further stated that this case demonstrated that the integrity of Homeland Security will be maintained.